



YS NEWS



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Focus: Tween Scene, *part 4*

This feature will focus on learning and reading development for different age groups, beginning with birth to five and eventually going through age 19.

This fourth article in the Tween Scene series—research on learning and reading development for children ages 10–12 and how libraries can best serve them and their parents—will discuss how to keep tweens reading for fun.

How to Keep Tweens Reading

The pre-teen years are a time when many kids start to read less for pleasure. [One recent study](#) by the National Endowment for the Arts showed that while 54% of American 9-year-olds read almost every day for fun, the figure drops to 30% of 13-year-olds, and 22% of 17-year-olds, and that those figures for 9- and 17-year-olds have continued to drop steadily since 1984.

[A recent study](#) by Kjersti VanSlyke-Briggs, Ed.D., in the *North Carolina Middle School Association Journal* terms this alliteracy—when students are capable of reading, but choose not to. “This is a common problem and although some students rebound and later continue their interest in reading for pleasure, others never reclaim a love of reading and even struggle with class assignments,” states VanSlyke-Briggs (p. 1).

VanSlyke-Briggs investigated why this decline occurs, and found 4 common themes that other studies also have found:

- School became too serious and academic. In the transition to middle school, many students feel increased pressure from more testing and greater consequences for not performing well. This leads many students to turn away from reading for pleasure, as they associate reading with this negative pressure.
- Not liking one’s teachers. Similar to school pressure, some students translate a negative opinion of and experiences with their teachers into a dislike for reading. Also, dislike of teachers was often coupled with other factors such as a dislike of schoolwork and difficulty with transitioning from elementary to middle school. For some students, not reading offers a sense of control over these situations.
- Lack of reading choice. Very often students have less choice of what to read in

Welcome to YS News!

This newsletter will feature articles on learning development, summer reading updates, timely tidbits, children’s and teen literature news, and an exchange of what’s happening in CO libraries.

Would you like to see a topic covered in the newsletter? Want to share info about your programs? Or perhaps contribute an article? Let me know!

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2013 SRP: News & Ideas

SRP Highsmith Sale!

Highsmith is having an overstock sale on certain SRP items. The prices are great but you need to act fast—they'll go quickly! Go to www.shopcslp.com/cslp/ to see what's on sale.

News of Future SRPs!

The annual meeting of state Collaborative Summer Library Program (CSLP) representatives from across the country occurred this month and voted on future slogans and themes:

2015:

Overall theme: Heroes

Children's slogan: Every Hero Has a Story

Teen slogan: Unmask!

Adult slogan: Escape the Ordinary



2016:

Overall theme: Wellness/Fitness/Sports
(slogans to be decided next year)

And the 2014 info decided previously:

Overall theme: Science

Children's slogan: Fizz, Boom, Read!

Teen slogan: Spark a Reaction!

Adult slogan: Literary Elements

Summer Learning Day

[Summer Learning Day](#) is a national advocacy day designed to raise awareness about importance of summer learning for youth in helping close the achievement gap and support healthy



development. Summer Learning Day is on Friday, June 21, but can be celebrated with an event anytime during the summer!

The National Summer Learning Association (NSLA) has added new resources to the Summer Learning Day website that are perfect not only on Summer Learning Day, but in spreading awareness year round. And you can add your library's event to the [national program's map](#) (be the first from CO on the map!).

2013 *Teen Summer Reading Programs* website

As the hub for summer reading and summer learning, YALSA's 2013 [Teen Summer Reading Programs website](#) offers a place to exchange information and ideas for library staff to implement programs for and with teens. The website will continue to be updated throughout the spring and summer and is a great place to share ideas and brainstorm with fellow teen services staff.

One Book 4 CO 2013

Share Your OB4C Events & Stories!

If you're planning an OB4C event at your library or in your community, please tell us about it! We'll add your event to [the official OB4C event calendar](#) on the website.



And once the OB4C giveaway has started, please send us your stories, photos, videos, and any other way you'll capture your great events and one-on-one giveaways! We'd love to share those on the OB4C website, Facebook page, and Twitter, as well as document the 2013 program.

Remember the Toolkit!

There are many excellent resources in the [OB4C](#)

[PR & Activities Toolkit!](#) Check here for PR tools including the OB4C logo, press releases, book marks, flyers, posters, and more! Also find activities and ideas based around the 3 book finalists and the selected book, like a sheet of duck outlines (great for crafts and nametags!), a Mad Lib, letter ducks, duck and bike stick puppets, and more. And please send us activities or PR materials you've created that you're willing to share!



Book Nook

Suggest a Title for 2014 YA Booklists & Awards

All of YALSA's award and booklist committees love to receive suggestions from YA readers. Anyone can suggest a title for any of their awards and lists! Just visit the relevant award or list webpage and click on "Suggest a title." Please be aware that simply submitting a title suggestion does not mean the book has been officially nominated. Access all of [YALSA's awards and lists](#).

Timely Tidbits

Statewide Matchwits Contest

[Matchwits](#), a high school quiz program on Rocky Mountain PBS (RMPBS) previously seen only in southern Colorado, is going statewide and RMPBS wants your students to be a part of the action!

16 teams will ultimately be selected from high schools throughout CO to play in the Matchwits on-air tournament taped at the RMPBS studio in Pueblo November 8 - 10. To qualify, students

can register to participate in an online qualification tournament that takes place in October. Register at www.rmpbs.org/matchwits by **Friday, May 10**. There is no cost to schools to participate in the qualification tournament.

CCIRA 2014 Conference: Call for Proposals

Do you have a great classroom idea, technology tips, or other educational knowledge you'd like to share at the 2014 CCIRA (CO Council International Reading Association) [Conference on Literacy](#)? If so, complete the [Program Proposal Form](#) for the opportunity to present at the CCIRA Conference in Denver, February 5-8, 2014. The conference theme is "Embrace the Future. Respect the Past." Deadline for proposals is June 30.

And while you're there, take a look at [CCIRA's new website](#)!



Make Your Own Makerspace Workshop

CoPLA (Colorado Public Library Association) is pleased to announce our May 17 workshop: [Make Your Own Makerspace](#). Only \$25 for CAL members.

Is your library THE PLACE to go to create content? Is the DIY maker movement changing the way we learn and think and interact? How can you build a makerspace in your library without breaking the bank?

Join us May 17 for a hands-on, brains-on workshop simulcast in Colorado Springs, Estes Park, Highlands Ranch and Parachute. Bonus Features: Live tour of one of Colorado's newest makerspaces - The Studio at Anythink. Talk live with staff at the YOUmedia Center in Chicago Public Library.

***Colorado Libraries Journal* Now Available!**

For the latest issue of the *Colorado Libraries Journal*, [click here](#). Lots of good articles on marketing, social media, rethinking public libraries, and much more.

40% of CO high school grads need remediation

Forty percent of Colorado's class of 2011 enrolled in a Colorado college or university needed remedial education courses in at least one subject in order to catch up to college-level work, according to a report released by the Department of Higher Education. [Read more about the findings](#).

The Power of Talking to Your Baby

This [New York Times blog post](#) investigates established, new, and upcoming research into the very significant impact talking has on young children's (age birth – 3) language development. The upcoming study looks very promising in producing significant results.

5 ways to get kids to want to read and write

How can teachers get students to want to learn? [This article about the issue](#), from veteran educator Larry Ferlazzo, is adapted from his new book, *Self-Driven Learning: Teaching Strategies for Student Motivation*.

Reaching Teens through Passive Programming


Looking for a way to implement programming at your library, but strapped for cash, staff, or time? Want an easy—and maybe even subversive—way to reach teens? Passive programming is the answer. [This article](#) in *Programming Librarian* will get you started.

2013 Best Educational Software Awards

The ComputED Gazette has announced the 2013 winners of these annual awards, also known as the BESSIES. The BESSIES target

innovative and content-rich programs (including apps for iPad and Android) and websites that provide parents and teachers with the technology to foster educational excellence. [Check out the winners](#), listed by age group.

Climate Connections Video Series Features CO

America has questions about climate change, and the USGS (U.S. Geological Survey) is  providing answers through a [video series](#) called Climate Connections. In these videos, USGS scientists are engaging in conversations and addressing questions from across the nation. There are 6 episodes, [including one about Colorado](#). Great for older students!

News from YALSA

- **Understanding Teen Behavior**
This curriculum kit offers 7 continuing ed modules that can be implemented as one hour sessions, or together as a full day of training. The kit comes with a script, activity sheets, and PowerPoint presentation. This training is perfect for any library staff that encounter teens. Get a sneak peak [via this free webinar demo](#). To learn more or to order kits, [click here](#).
- **2013 Teen Read Week™ web site up**
Please join us in celebrating Teen Read Week Oct. 13 – 19! The theme will be “Seek the Unknown @ Your Library.” The [2013 TRW website](#) is up and running! (If you registered last year on the website, please register again this year; your info has not been saved.) [TRW products](#) are on sale too.
- **2013 Teen Read Week™ mini grants**
Through funding from the Dollar General Literacy Foundation, YALSA will offer ten \$1,000 grants to recognize outstanding Teen Read Week activities from its members! Apply by July 1. [Click here](#) for the

application and more info.

- [Virtual Town Hall on Libraries & Teens](#)
May 21, noon to 1:00 MT
Explore the topic of the future of libraries and teens with colleagues across the country online.
- [Webinar: Helping Youth Transition from Children's to Teen Services](#)
May 16, noon to 1:00 MT
Registration fees vary
- YALSA and Connected Learning TV will kick off a [month-long series of conversations](#) beginning May 2, 2013. These free virtual chats will look at the roles social media and teens play in the future of public and school libraries.

Afterschool Matters Focus on STEM

[The Spring 2013 issue](#) of *Afterschool Matters* focuses on STEM learning in afterschool programs. The articles present program models, lessons learned, and new perspectives on a variety of related topics.

STEMGirls Summer Camp

STEMgirls is offering a [summer camp](#) in Louisville, June 17–21, for girls 8–12. STEMgirls will build Mars Rovers, create outer space altered books, and explain to June, the therapy dog, why we are looking for life on Mars! STEMgirl Mentors (always female!) will participate in these fun, hands-on activities!

NASA Mentoring Program for Girls

[NASA G.I.R.L.S](#) (Giving Initiative and Relevance to Learning Science) is for girls in 5th–8th grades and includes a virtual mentoring program using commercially available video chat programs to pair Women @NASA mentors with a young girl anywhere in the country.

Need Help Finding Storytime Books?

The CLEL Communications team needs your help! There's a new way for you to get involved in CLEL and also provide you with storytime resources. CLEL will send out themes monthly and you will send us your top two storytime books for that theme. We will then compile a list of all the books, post them on the [blog](#), [Facebook](#), and [Pinterest](#) each week. We are hoping this becomes a great resource for CLEL members. Please feel free to give us ideas for themes you want covered. Put your books and theme ideas in the comments section or email them to clelorg@gmail.com.

The May themes are insects, animals on the go (In honor of OB4C), zoo animals, and gardens.

Save the Date and Call for Proposals!

The CLEL Conference 2013 will be held on Friday, September 13, 8:30–4:30, in Englewood. CLEL is accepting proposals for presenters. We would love to see what you are doing at your library and what creative things you have to teach the CLEL constituents about early literacy. [Click here](#) to fill out the proposal form. Deadline: May 31.

[CLEL—Colorado Libraries for Early Literacy](#)—is a large and growing group of library staff dedicated to serving young children and their families. This conference is an excellent opportunity to learn from CO colleagues and share your own experiences.



CO Libraries in the Press

Literacy Carnival at Mancos Public Library

Mancos Daisy Troop 24652, along with other

local Daisy, Brownie, and Girl Scout Troops and volunteers, hosted a Literacy Carnival at the Mancos Public Library, featuring booths, books, games, food, prizes, a Scholastic Book Fair, and more. [Check out photos here.](#)

Paws to Read at Pikes Peak Library District

This library district in the Colorado Springs area has a [Paws to Read program](#), in which children read to dogs. Research shows that reading aloud, as well as listening to books read aloud by others, can help build a strong vocabulary, confidence in reading, and language problem-solving skills. Dogs are non-judgmental listeners and can allow children a way to practice reading aloud in a safe space. The program also helps kids love the library and become comfortable around dogs.

Vail Public Library hosts Earth Day celebration

Smokey the Bear and some community partners were great assistants at [this event in Vail](#). At the event, focused on water conservation, participants took home eco-friendly tools and goodie bags donated by Home Depot and the Eagle River Water & Sanitation District.

Park County Public Libraries Launch 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten Program

This library system is launching a [1,000 Books Before Kindergarten](#) program to encourage parents to read at least 1,000 books to their children before they reach kindergarten. Murals on the library walls of the mountains in the area will help families watch their progress towards this goal.

Sterling Public Library and National Library Week

Sterling residents of all ages got to celebrate [National Library Week](#) with 'food for fines' days and programs for children, teens and adults.

New Website for Jefferson County Public Library

This library system just [launched a new website](#), jeffcolibrary.org/, as the website has seen the biggest growth area in terms of use in the entire library system. The site includes strong children and teen sections.

Routt County Libraries Article Series

The 3 library systems in Routt County were recently featured in a newspaper article series. [One features](#) the West Routt and South Routt districts, providing an overview of their services. [Another highlights](#) the East Routt district, discussing its services and library built in 2008. [The third](#) offers photos of the Bud Werner Memorial Library in Steamboat Springs.

Upcoming Grant Opportunities

[Libri Foundation Grants](#)

Deadline: May 15, August 15

The Libri Foundation is a nationwide non-profit which donates new, quality, hardcover children's books to small, rural public libraries through its BOOKS FOR CHILDREN program. Eligible libraries should be in a rural area, have a limited operating budget, and an active children's department. Grant recipient libraries can receive up to \$1,050 worth of books, depending on local match. The local librarian selects the books the library will receive from the Foundation's 700-title booklist.

[Pushing the Limits: Grants to Rural Libraries from National Science Foundation](#)

Deadline: May 15

Last year, 20 small and rural public libraries in 15 states were selected as pilot sites to host "Pushing the Limits: Making Sense of Science," a four-part reading, viewing and discussion series for adults, with each receiving a \$2,500 grant to host public programs with unique Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) angles. This year, the program will be expanded to 75 additional rural libraries throughout the nation.

Tween Scene *cont.*

middle school than they had in elementary school. They also often have less time in school to read for pleasure.

- Lack of time for reading for pleasure out of school. Many tweens are busier and more scheduled than they were in elementary school, between extracurricular activities like sports and music and increased homework and chores at home.

The study noted other factors for tweens not reading as much as well:

- There is often less of a social aspect to reading once students reach middle school, which motivates many kids to want to read.
- Schools often don't encourage reading for pleasure in middle school as actively than in elementary school.
- Some students feel less of a personal and creative connection to literature in middle school.
- Families tend to read together less as children get older, which also removes a motivating factor for some tweens to read.



negative reasons into positive opportunities to keep tweens reading:

- Tackle the issue of lack of choice of reading material by asking your tween patrons what interests them—then offer those types of materials in your collection. Start a tween advisory group to help select books. (They can also help with peer-to-peer PR, volunteer to assist with programs for younger kids and their peers, and much more!)
- Continuing with the choice theme, declare a month or so as the time to take a good look at your collection for this age group; assess, weed, add, update. Be sure to include multiple reading formats for tweens—ebooks, audiobooks, magazines, and links to great online content.
- Highlight great books for tweens in colorful displays in your library. Make it interactive and social by inviting your tweens to recommend the books to include in the displays—or have them create the displays themselves!
- To counteract some of the school pressure, add in social aspects to reading, and encourage reading for pleasure, offer fun tween programs around reading and writing. Manga and graphic novels clubs, creative writing workshops, drama clubs, programs around popular tween book series, lively book talks (by staff and tweens themselves!), events where tweens dress like their favorite book characters (called Cosplay), steampunk clubs, books-to-

Lessons for Libraries

Library staff can take away a lot of lessons for these reasons that tweens tend to read less often than they did in elementary school. Here are some ways that libraries can re-make these

movies nights, banned books clubs—ask your tween patrons what interests them and then keep it fun! (And serve food!)

- Offer a tween book festival. A middle school in Pasadena, TX, [offers an annual festival](#) that celebrates and promotes reading by connecting tweens with authors. The target audience is students in grades 5–8. This is a fun, personal, and social event that actively encourages reading.
- Get the kids when they DO have more time to read—at your SRP. Offer special programming for tweens when possible.
- Encourage parents of tweens to continue reading as a regular and frequent family activity. Consider modeling this with family reading nights at your library.

Public libraries can go far to help tweens overcome some of the barriers they experience in reading for pleasure, so let's keep the momentum going so they remain great readers through their teen years and beyond!

Sources:

National Endowment for the Arts. (2007, November). To read or not to read: A question of national consequence. (Research Division Report No.47). Washington, DC.: NEA.

[Available online](#)

VanSlyke-Briggs, K. (2011). What Went Wrong: Middle School Students and Alliteracy. *North Carolina Middle School Association Journal*, 26(1), 1–12.

[Available online](#)

Additional tween resources:

[Archived Webinar & Resources: The Tween Scene at Your Library](#)

Tweens are not quite children, but not quite teens. What's the best way to offer services to this group to keep them engaged at your library and in reading? In this interactive session, participants discussed best practices for effective tween programming, policies, reading advisory, and more. This webinar complements this newsletter series on tweens.

[Tween Programs Extravaganza!](#)

This fabulous panel session was presented at the 2012 CAL Conference and some of the 2013 CLiC workshops, and the presenters created the most amazing workshop handout ever! It's filled with **110 pages** of ideas for great tween programs! Find some of the ideas in this article detailed, plus many, many more!

[Top Titles for Tweens 2013](#)

From the ALSC blog

[This American Life: Middle School](#)

Great audio segment on life in middle school (1 hour)

Lesesne, T. (2006). *Naked reading: Uncovering what tweens need to become lifelong readers*. Portland, ME: Stenhouse Publishers.